

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Polymer bead of dry bead structure incorporating a diluent that is highly water-soluble characterized by swelling rapidly when placed in contact with aqueous media to form a water-swollen gel bead.
2. (original) Polymer beads in accordance with claim 1 that are a dry-free-flow powder.
3. (original) A method of making the beads of claim 1 by water-in-oil process.
4. (original) The method of making the beads of claim 1 by the droplet extrusion method.
5. (original) Agarose-dextrose beads made by the method of claim 3.
6. (original) Gelatin-dextrose beads made by the method of claim 3.
7. (original) Agarose-maltodextrin beads made by the method of claim 3.
8. (original) Agarose-dextran beads made by the method of claim 3.
9. (original) Agarose-Poly (ethylene glycol) beads made by the method of claim 3.
10. (original) Agarose-Poly (ethylene glycol) beads made by the method of claim 4.
11. (currently amended) The method of using the beads of claim 1 in accordance with ~~Application 1~~ transporting water-swollen gel beads through an animal circulatory system.
12. (currently amended) The method of using the beads of claim 1 in accordance with ~~Application 2~~ transporting water-swollen gel beads containing a biological active agent through an animal circulatory system.

13. (currently amended) The method of using the beads of claim 1 in accordance with ~~Application 3~~ absorbing a finite amount of biological media at the point they are placed in an animal to serve as a hemostat to reduce hemorrhaging.
14. (currently amended) The method of using the beads of claim 1 in accordance with ~~Application 4~~ carrying a well defined amount of desired material into a defined small volume element.
15. (Canceled).